AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the title "Description" which appears on page 1, line 2.

Please replace the first paragraph which begins on page 1, line 3 and ends on line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a composite panel system ~~as generically defined by the preamble to claim 1~~ having at least two panel elements of the same or different brittle materials, in particular glass, wherein the panel elements are joined superficially to one another by an intermediate layer of an adhesive plastic.

On page 1, prior to the second paragraph which begins on line 5, please insert the following:

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

On page 3, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 8, please insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 3, line 15 and ends on line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For attaining this object, in a composite panel system of the types defined at the outset, the reinforcing element is embedded in the intermediate layer, and the composite panel system is retained mechanically fastenably and/or its reinforcing element is retained to be coupled mechanically on a support structure ~~characteristics recited in claim 1 are provided~~.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 4, line 7 and ends on line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Advantageous features of the mechanical fastening of the composite panel system in a support structure are obtained by the provision of a rigid fastening device, whose fastening zone embracing the composite panel system has a size which even if the composite panel system breaks assures reinforcing anchoring, by the provision of the fastening device being either continuously or intermittently along one edge of the composite panel system, and by the provision of the fastening device being in the form of a clamping construction with high transverse pressure ~~characteristics of one or more of claims 2 through 4~~. The size of the fastened portion relative to the length of the composite panel system is essential and is also intended to assure anchoring of the composite panel system in the support structure on the applicable edge even if the composite panel sags as a result of breakage, thus reducing the size of the fastened portion. The fastening can be provided continuously over the entire width, or intermittently, transversely to the length of the composite panel. A sufficiently high transverse pressure of the clamping construction exists if the fastening of the composite panel is assured even after the composite panel breaks.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 4, line 22 and ends on line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The mechanical coupling of the reinforcing element to the support structure can be provided inside the panel, in accordance with connecting the reinforcing element inside the panel to the support structure ~~the characteristics of claim 5~~, or peripherally outside the panel, in accordance with ~~the characteristics of claim~~ 6 the reinforcing element extending on at least one edge of the panel out of the

panel and connected on its outer periphery to the support structure. Which of these two types will advantageously be used depends in particular on the type of support structure, that is, whether it involves individual bolts or a framelike support structure.

Please replace the first paragraph which appears on page 5, line 1 and ends on line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

With the characteristics whereby the reinforcing element is provided over the entire surface of the panel ~~of claim 7~~, a more-uniform load-bearing capacity is obtained over the entire panel surface, regardless of its installed and braced position.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 5, line 4 and ends on line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For the reinforcing element, various materials in different forms can be used, as disclosed by the characteristics whereby, the reinforcing element is of glass fibers or carbon fibers, or is of metal, and the reinforcing element is formed by a woven fabric, is a grid, is formed by ribbons, rovings, yarns, cords, twisted yarns, threads, or the like, is characterized in that the ribbons, rovings, yarns, cords, twisted yarns, or threads are extended out of the panel in one direction or in directions perpendicular to one another in a meander pattern, is characterized in that the reinforcing element is formed by a thin metal sheet, is characterized in that the thin metal sheet is provided with perforations or similar stamped features, by which the support structure is guided, and is characterized in that the reinforcing element is profiled ~~of one or more of claims 8 or 9 and 10 through 16~~. Depending on the type and design of the reinforcing element, various possibilities of mechanical coupling to the support structure are obtained. For instance, looplike connections as well as soldered connections and the like to the support

structure are possible. Depending on the type of material and the form of inlay, additional advantages are obtained, such as a reduction in light transmission for the sake of also attaining protection against sunlight in the case of various glasses. Also in glasses, the reinforcing element can serve the purpose of vision protection, on the order of a curtain. It is also possible now for the noise abatement properties known from cast resin composites to be exploited for the safety field as well.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 5, line 21 and ends on line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Advantageous provisions in the construction of such composite panel systems will become apparent from the characteristics in that the intermediate layer comprises two partial layers, and that the reinforcing element is placed between the two partial layers, and in that the reinforcing element is placed between two panel elements that are kept spaced apart and is potted, forming the intermediate layer ~~of claims 17 and 18~~.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 5, line 24 and ends on line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Especially advantageous applications will become apparent from the characteristics in that the panel system is embodied as an overhead glazing, and/or in that the panel system is embodied as a glazing that can be walked on or that secures against collapse ~~of claims 19 and/or 20~~.

On page 5, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 26 please insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 6, line 2 and ends on line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1, which is [[in]] a schematic, perspective and partly cutaway view, the structure of a composite panel in a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 2A and 2B, which are views corresponding to Fig. 1, but for a second and third exemplary embodiment, respectively, of the present invention;

Fig. 3, which is a view corresponding to Fig. 1, but for a fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4, which is [[in]] a schematic, perspective, exploded view, the structure of a composite panel in a fifth exemplary embodiment of the present invention; and

Figs. 5A and 5B, which are exemplary embodiments for joining the composite panel or its reinforcing elements to a support structure.

On page 6, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 16, please insert the following:

DETAILED DISCUSSION